

tail the necessity of preserving a larger number of specimens, and may lead to some waste of room. I am satisfied, however, that with a proper attention in the selection of the specimens intended as representatives of the genera in the systematic collection, no unnecessary repetitions need be made. I have been careful everywhere to avoid the introduction of large specimens in the systematic collection, in order to render them more comprehensive, and to bring, at a glance, a whole class under the eye; while the bulk of specimens illustrating the species are referred to the faunal collections. And I need not repeat here what I have stated again and again on other occasions, that the great deficiency of other museums, and especially of the large public collections, consists in the scanty representation of the species and the monotony with which a single male and female, or sometimes even a single specimen, are allowed to be the only provision made for the study of an animal which, to be well known, ought to be examined in an ample series of specimens of all ages, of both sexes, and in every possible state of preservation. What are frequently called characteristic specimens, and paraded singly as types, are but too often thus set aside by unscientific keepers of museums, in order that they may have an opportunity of disposing of other specimens for exchanges, and thus increasing the nominal number of the species in their collections.

On a New Genus of Lizards from Ceylon.

By W. PETERS.

COPHOTIS, nov. gen.*

By its compressed form, the equal number of its fingers and toes, and its concealed tympanum, this genus of *Iguanoidea* approaches the Ceylonese genera *Otocryptis*, *Lyriocephalus*, and *Ceratophora*. It is readily distinguished from them by the extremely fine granulation and keelless texture of the soles of all the feet, by the nearly equal length of the third and fourth toes, by the comb of scales, which extends along the whole length of the back, by the large scales of the tail, and the more produced form of the muzzle. It agrees most closely with *Ceratophora* by the larger scales on the sides of the throat, the neck, and the body, and with *Lyriocephalus* in its occipital spine and small postocular spine.

Cophotis ceylanica, n. sp.

The head is pyramidal, twice as long as its breadth and height; the muzzle is equal in length to the distance between the eyes. The round nostrils open laterally in simple shields, which stand in immediate connexion with the supralabial shields, and are separated from the rostral shield by one or two, and from each other by three series of convex scales. Regular, keeled scales, pretty nearly equal in size to those occurring on the muzzle, form a supraorbital arch on each side; this consists of seven scales, and applies itself to the post-orbital spine. The supraorbital arches are separated from each

* From κωφός, weak; οὖς, ὠτὸς, ear.

other only by a single row of scales; and the arch is filled up to the supraorbital margin by three or four rows of scales, which decrease in size from within outwards. There are on each side nine supralabial shields, followed immediately by a second row of scarcely smaller shields. The scales of the temporal region are of the same size as those of the fore part of the head; and a few somewhat larger ones show, like the latter, a short point in the middle. The occipital region terminates in two short spines converging as in *Lyriocephalus*. The eyelids are entirely covered with small granular scales; it is only on the margins of the eyelids that they appear to be smooth; and on the upper eyelid there is a row of from three to five rather larger flat scales. The region of the chin and throat is covered with slightly keeled scales, lying in rows parallel to the infralabial shields, and gradually diminishing in size towards the median line. In the upper jaw there is a short one-pointed median tooth, followed upon each side by two equally short ones, then a longer one, and then thirteen three-pointed molars; in the lower jaw the median tooth is wanting, and on each side there are two one-pointed and fourteen three-pointed teeth. The neck, body, and tail are compressed, and the latter, in the two specimens described, is bent downwards (prehensile?). The back and the sides of the neck, trunk, and tail are covered with large imbricated scales, which are particularly large in the middle of the sides of the body; the scales are smallest on the under side of the neck, where there is an inconspicuous gular sac in the smaller of the two specimens, and on the breast; but these are keeled like the ventral scales, which are about one-half larger. On the back of the neck three or four long pointed scales form a crest, which is continued by similar but isolated scales down to the sacral region. The tail has no trace of a dorsal crest, but presents two inferior keels as in *Ceratophora*. The extremities, which appear to be shorter than in the allied genera, are covered, both on their upper and under sides, with large scales, but are strikingly distinguished from those of the allied genera by having the scales of all the foot-soles extremely small, and the soles of the fingers and toes very slightly, if at all, keeled, in accordance with the small size of the scales.

The colour is brown (blue on the spots deprived of scales); from the point of the muzzle a yellowish band runs along the upper lip to the shoulder, where it suddenly becomes broader; an elongated spot behind each eye, a large spot on the nape of the neck, in front of the crest, a large triangular spot with its point towards the back close behind the anterior extremities, and some broad, somewhat indistinct, transverse bands on the tail are yellow. The throat also is yellow, but marked on each side with irregular bands running obliquely from the margin of the lower lip.

Total length 0·136, head 0·018, tail 0·075, anterior limb 0·023, posterior limb 0·027; width of the head 0·008 metre. The two specimens were collected in Ceylon by M. Nietner.—*Monatsbericht der Akad. der Wiss. zu Berlin*, December 1861.